

PUBLIC ART CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

Maine State House Complex, Augusta, Maine

OVERVIEW

The Maine Arts Commission is making a call to all artists to submit proposals to design, create and install artwork utilizing the former copper from the State House dome. Artwork/s will be installed at the Maine State House Complex in Augusta, Maine. The total project budget is approximately \$12,000 and the chosen artist/s will be supplied with up to 1,000 square feet of the original state house sheets of dome copper roofing to be used as the primary material in the artwork's fabrication. The copper pieces vary in size but on average are 20"x 36" and in varying states of patination and distress. The submission **deadline is Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 5 p.m. (EST).**

BACKGROUND

In 1827, the Maine Legislature passed an Act to establish the permanent capitol of the State in Augusta on a thirty-four acre parcel of land that the citizens of the community had offered for the purpose. Construction of the State House commenced in 1829, and it was completed in January of 1832. Designed by Charles Bulfinch, the granite building featured a monumental portico and low saucer dome surmounted by a lantern. The building was expanded to the west in 1890-91, and it achieved its present appearance in 1910-11 after a major remodeling that included the addition of wings to the north and south and a tall new dome clad with a copper roof.

In addition to designing the building itself, Bulfinch drew plans for landscaping the immediate grounds. This kidney-shaped design included two terraces with a walkway extending from the present State Street to the portico entrance. A granite retaining wall surmounted by a wrought iron fence with dart finials was constructed at the edge of the grounds, and granite entrance posts were installed at the foot of the walkway. Subsequent photographs of the State House show a variety of trees on the grounds, but -- with the exception of a brief period when two cannons flanked the front steps -- no objects. Although the terraces were modified during the construction of the 1910 additions and the entrance posts were changed, the retaining wall, fence and the feeling of the original landscape design remain.

At a site so central to Maine's history and identity, it is important that any art commissioned for such a location share in the dignity and significance of its surroundings. It is also necessary to recognize that the many visitors to the State House complex represent widely different places of origin, walks of life, and levels of education. Combined with Maine's traditional reputation for self-effacing competency, independence, moderation and resilience, these factors suggest that a newly commissioned work of art might well reflect some of these admirable virtues.

LOCATION OPTIONS

Listed below are all the possible locations for art work. Artists may address any or all of these areas in their proposals.

Location #1: Interior - Above the Law and Legislative Reference Library door of the State House.
Size approximately 9'11" x 6'9".

Location #2: Interior – Inside the State House through the north exit corridor of the public entrance.
Large wall adjacent to the security screening area. Size approximately 21' X 7'.
Proposed works for this location may not exceed a depth of more than 6 inches due to

high volume of pedestrian traffic.

Location #3: Interior – Large blue wall inside the east public entrance in the Burton M. Cross Building. Above the stairwell. Size approximately 10'9" X 10'5".

Location #4: Exterior – Small elevated greenery between the short term and handicap parking on the southwest side of the State House Complex.

Location #5: Exterior - Bricked walkway outside of the northwest public entrances into the State House. Could use either side of the building entrances between the doors and the short walls.

Images of these locations are provided in the Grant Management System (GMS). See "HOW TO SUBMIT MATERIAL" section in this prospectus for details on logging in to the GMS.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the locations, the architectural elements or would like to visit the site please contact Grant Pennoyer, the project manager via e-mail at grant.pennoyer@legislature.maine.gov.

All other questions should be directed to Julie Horn, Visual Arts Director at the Maine Arts Commission through e-mail at Julie.Horn@maine.gov, or by phone at 207/287-2790.

PROJECT BUDGET

There is approximately \$12,000 available for artwork for this project. The artist/s will also receive up to 1,000 square feet of the original copper from the state house dome. These funds and materials will be used to commission work(s) from a single artist, more than one artist or an artist team. An artist budget proposal must cover all design, fabrication, transportation, documentation, and installation expenses. Building or site modifications associated with the artwork will be discussed and negotiated with the contracting agency.

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection committee of seven members will jury submissions for the project. The committee will review the materials to determine whom to invite for a second round of evaluation. Artists selected for the second round will receive a **\$750.00** design fee for refining their proposals. Final proposals will include detailed models, drawings, renderings, samples of work and/or materials depending on the nature of the proposal. All finalists will present their final proposals to the committee in person. Please do not submit detailed models, drawings, samples, or final proposals for the first round of the selection process.

All submitted materials will not be returned.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications are reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Artistic strength as shown through vision, originality, and understanding of craft (30 points).
- Ability to translate artistic concepts into work that will activate or enhance the proposed space (25 points).
- Application is comprehensive in information and ideas are well communicated (20 points).

- Ability to design work that is sensitive to social, environmental, historical, and/or other relevant contexts (15 points).
- Capacity to complete the proposal on time and within budget (10 points).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The project is open to all artists age 18 and over, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical disabilities. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines. Those ineligible include: students of any level, staff of the Maine State Legislature, Maine State Legislators, selection committee members, and any family members of these groups.

DEADLINE

Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 5 p.m. (EST) is the deadline for submission of materials. Materials received after this date may be excluded from consideration.

MATERIALS REQUIRED IN SUBMISSION

Materials must be submitted online through the Maine Arts Commission's Grant Management System (GMS). See "How to Submit Materials" below for details.

All **documents** must be in a **PDF** format. All images must be in a **jpg or PDF** format. Any submissions that do not follow the requirements may be considered ineligible. Make sure submissions are labeled correctly, that you identify the application with "Maine State House Copper Reuse Project", and that **your name, phone number, mailing address and email information is on every document**.

Your proposal must include:

1. A current concise resume for participating artist(s) (2 pages maximum).
2. A brief one-page written proposal describing your past work and how you plan to address the potential art area(s). Discuss what your concept and approach will be in addressing the public art space(s) of the site. Please do not submit detailed models, samples, or final proposals for this round of the selection process. A simple sketch (1 per installation area) may be included to clarify your idea if necessary.
3. An itemized budget estimate to give cost expectations (include design fees as well as anticipated fabrication, transportation and installation costs). A more precise budget may be requested for those invited past the first round.
4. A brief anticipated maintenance plan required for the artwork. Please **do not** include this in the narrative of your proposal.
5. Five digital images of recent work. If an artist team or artist organization applies, they may only submit five images for all artists. The optional proposal sketch does not count as an

image. (**Please include any sketches with the narrative portion of the proposal.**) Do not upload A/V files of any kind. Only jpg or PDF files are eligible for review.

HOW TO SUBMIT MATERIAL

*NOTE: Some Internet Explorer users have experienced problems during the application process. Because of this, **we recommend that you use the Firefox, Safari or Chrome web browser to access the GMS and submit your application.***

Step 1: Click [here](#) to sign into the Maine Arts Commission's Grant Management System (GMS).

-If you **already have an account** with the Maine Arts Commission then type in your user name and password and click the **"Sign in"** button.

-If you **DO NOT have an account** with the MAC, click the **"New User?"** to create a new account. Fill out the Create An Account - Step 1 & 2 pages as directed, then click **"Submit"** at the bottom. When you reach the "Account Created Successfully" page, click the green **"Login"** button in the middle of the page. This takes you to your account Dashboard. At the top of this page the blue header says "Note to Grant Applicants". Follow the underlined link provided to go back into the GMS to log in with your new account information.

Step 2: Locate this project on the "Active Grants" page of the GMS (there are more than one page of these). Then click **"read more"** under the opportunity posting.

Step 3: Read the information for full details on the project.

Step 4: If you are ready to start your application submission, click **"Apply Now"** at the bottom of this page.

Step 5: Fill out the GMS "Contact Information". When filling out the contact information, select the following:

- For Application Institution, select "Individual"
- For Application Statistic, select "Individual Artist" (regardless of number of artists participating in proposal)

At the bottom of the page click **"Save & Next"**.

STEP 6: For the "Support Material" section, please upload the materials required listed above. Do not upload A/V files. Follow the "Manage Images and Documents" instructions on this page for actual uploading. Files can only be uploaded one at a time. Please be sure to fill out the file description box for each.

When you have uploaded your entire required materials click **"Next Step"**.

STEP 7: In the "Checklist & Status" page, you may just click **"Submit"** if you want to come back and change any information before the deadline,
OR

If you are entirely finished with your application, you may check the “I have completed all required steps for this application” box and then click **“Submit”**. At this point your submission is complete and you will not be able to make any changes to the application.